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BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Chairman of the Council.	A. E. Troop, Esq., J.P. (Died 27th June, 1942)
	H. Ryden, Esq., J.P. (Elected 8th August 1942)
Vice-Chairman.	H. Ryden, Esq., J.P. D. Smith, Esq., J.P. (Elected 8th August 1942)

COUNCILLORS.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Councillor</u>
Balderstone	T. Harrison.
Billington.	A. E. Troop, J.P. (Died 27th June 1942.) B. I. Hacking. (Elected 5th September, 1942.)
Clayton-le-Dale	J. Ainsworth.
Dinckley..	J. W. Brewer.
Ecclleshill	D. Smith, J.P.
Hivesey... ..	G. Harwood.
Keller	E. L. Heyworth, J.P.
Osbaldston	A. F. Walsh.
Pleesington	R. Yates.
Ramsgreave.	T. Abbott.
Salesbury..	W. H. Widders.
Tockholes..	E. Miller. (Resigned 7th March, 1942.) Rev. W. Hodgkin. (Elected 16th May, 1942)
Wiltshire..	H. Ryden, J.P.
Yate and Pickup Bank..	J. Yates, J.P.

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health...	C. M. Bradley, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health.	T. J. Burke, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector	A. W. Craven, M.S.I.A. Cert., Meat Inspector.
Sanitary Inspector's Assistant ...	J. K. Hunt.
Clerk (Health Department)...	S. Pilkington. (Commenced duties 15th August, 1942.)

45, King Street,
Blackburn.
June, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Blackburn Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the work of the Health Department for the year ending 31st December, 1942.

As in other wartime years, this report is in the nature of an interim one, and is confined to essential particulars.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area in Acres	19,472
Rateable Value	£76,537
Estimated Product of 1d Rate ..	£307
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	5.54
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	6.68

The chief industries are cotton spinning and weaving, paper making, brick making and agriculture.

There were no unusual or excessive mortality or any sickness of special note during the year.

The health of the District continues to be good.

General Provision of Health Services.

No adjustments or changes were made during the year and all existing arrangements such as ambulance facilities continue.

SANITARY DISPOSITIONS.

Water Supply.

Some work was done to a well serving a collection of property at Pickup Bank. The object was to minimise the risk of pollution.

Drainage and sewerage.

General maintenance work was carried out on the Public Schemes. Several small sewage disposal plants to replace cesspools were installed.

Closet Accommodation.

Privy middens...	...	...	...	Nil.
Soil Closets ...	...	...	...	788
Dry Ashpits ....	...	...	...	79
Fresh Water Closets...	...	...	...	2296
Waste Water Closets...	...	...	...	81
Movable Ashbins. ...	...	...	...	1865

There were no conversions to fresh water closets during the year.

Owing to the difficulties experienced by the public in obtaining ashbins the Council purchased a quantity for resale; this scheme continues.

Public Cleansing

Public cleansing has hitherto been done by contractors. During the year arrangements were made to take over this service from the contractors and carry it out by direct labour.

One waggon was bought and application to purchase a refuse collector was made to the Ministry of War Transport. The change over was not complete at the end of the year.

The following figures summarise the amount of refuse collected by your own men and the contractors during the year.

Visits to Premises	Pans Emptied	Bins Emptied	Loads	T.	C.	Q.
108,796	34,335	75,830	1,501	2,359	11	1

Salvage.

The following weights of Salvaged materials were collected and salvaged during the year.

Material	Quantity		Approx. Value.	
	T.	C.	£	s.
Paper	71	18	342	0
Tins and Light Iron	24	14	24	10
Heavy Scrap Iron	6	16	18	0
Aluminium		3 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	15
Lead		2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	0
Copper and Brass		1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	0
Glass Bottles	4	11	6	0
Jam Jars	6	0	26	0
Textiles	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	75	6
Kitchen Waste	1	8	-	-
Bones	5	5		
Rubber	3	6	3	0
Total	107	12	507	12

Smoke Abatement.

Several observations of Factory Chimneys were made. Informal action regarding one chimney, which on the first observation was turning out black smoke for a period of nine minutes in thirty, was taken. Some improvement was effected but it is not yet satisfactory. It is unfortunate that the Bye Law under Section 104 of the Public Health Act, 1936 passed by the Council on the 31st October, 1942 was not confirmed.

Bed Bug Infestation.

During the year three houses were found to be lightly infested with bed bugs. Satisfactory results appear to have been obtained by spraying with a special fluid.

Sanitary Inspections

Number of Premises Visited	...	...	...	...	...	485
Defects or Nuisances Found	...	...	...	...	...	44
Number Abated	...	...	...	...	...	35
Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	44
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	-

The usual routine inspections were carried out.

Housing.

Housing conditions are fairly good although action was necessary in the case of several houses under Parts 1 and 3 of the Act.

One case of overcrowding was found during the year. No new houses were erected.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The condition of dairy farms within the District is fairly good. Routine inspections were continued throughout the year. It was noted that owing to the shortage of labour cowsheds were generally not quite so clean as hitherto, but every effort was made to improve this condition.

Thirty one samples of milk were taken, 14 of these were for examination for the presence Tubercle Bacilli, all were negative except one. 17 samples were submitted for the Methylenc Blue reductase and B. Coli tests, 9 were satisfactory 8 unsatisfactory. All unsatisfactory samples were followed up and advice given to the farmer.

Meat and Other Foods.

All carcasses including pigs slaughtered and kept for the farmers own use were inspected immediately after slaughter. The numbers were:-

<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Swine</u>
31	20	19	71

Meat and Offal Surrendered.

Beef	
Oedema	40lbs
Mutton.	
Septicaemia	220lbs
Offal	
Tuberculosis	372lbs
Distomatosis	193lbs
Mastitis	109lbs
Oedema	33lbs
Total	<u>932lbs</u>

Prevalance and Control of Infectious Diseases.

All cases of infectious diseases occuring during the year were sporadic. A considerable number of cases of dysentery were again notified from institutions within the District.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Total cases at all ages.	under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-65	65 & Over	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total number of Deaths
Scarlet Fever	25			1	1	4	8	5	1	3			6	1
Diphtheria	41								1	2	1			
Measles	85		1	2	9	7	47	16		5				
Whooping Cough	3	1		1	1									
Pneumonia	46						4	5	10	19	4	4		8
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1		1											
Dysentery	120			1	3	5	19	11	27	33	10	11		
Erysipelas	5						1			4				
Total	287	1	1	5	14	16	79	37	42	61	15	15	6	8

Tuberculosis; New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods	New Cases		Deaths	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	Respiratory	Non Respiratory	Respiratory	Non Respiratory
1-5 years	-	-	-	-
5-10 years	-	-	-	-
10-15 years	-	-	-	-
15-20 years	-	-	-	-
20-25 years	1	-	-	-
25-35 years	1	-	1	1
35-45 years	-	1	1	1
45-55 years	1	-	-	-
55-65 years	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years.	-	-	-	-
Total	3	1	2	2

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Several sessions for the immunisation of children were held during the year, usually at the L.C.C. Dental Clinic, Lord Street, Blackburn.

The average per annum for the past 10 years for cases of diphtheria has been six, this years total of four compares favourably with this.

	Number Immunised	Number of Children Who ceased to attend	Prophylactics used
Pre-School Children	74	27	A.P.T.
School Children	85	10	Wellcome
Total	<u>159</u>	<u>37</u>	